



WEBSTER GROVES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

45 West Lockwood Ave. ♦ Webster Groves, MO 63119

314-962-9210 ♦ wgpc.org



15th Sunday after Pentecost ♦ September 5, 2021 ♦ 9:30 a.m.

Our Mission:

We seek to live Christ's love, welcome all people,
and joyfully serve God.

As the music begins, let us use this time for quiet reflection and prayer, so that we, individually and as a great crowd of witnesses, may prepare ourselves to reaffirm our faith as the people of God.

✦ *When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.*

Gathering for God's Word

PRELUDE: "Here I Am to Worship" arr. Mark Hayes
Worship Band

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP Pete Putnam

L: Hallelujah! O my soul, praise God!

P: All my life long I'll praise God, singing songs to my God as long as I live.

L: God made sky and soil, sea and all the fish in it. God always does what God says.

P: God defends the wronged, God feeds the hungry. God frees prisoners.

L: God gives sight to the blind, God lifts up the fallen.

P: God protects strangers, takes the side of orphans and widows.

L: God is in charge – always. Hallelujah! Let us worship God.

✦ OPENING HYMN: #640 "Open Your Mouth and Praise the Lord" OPEN YOUR MOUTH
(see music in back of bulletin)
Congregation sings "all."

✦ CALL TO CONFESSION John Rawlings

L: Let us confess our sins to the Lord who surrounds us with favor forevermore.

✦ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**P: How glibly we say we trust you, Holy One,
and how quickly our fears silence our words. Continued >>**

**We find you at the side of the poor,
while we cozy up to the rich and famous.
You stand behind the counter serving the hungry at the soup kitchen,
while we are stocking our freezers and pantries till they overflow.
We look down at those whose hands are dirty,
but your hand of mercy pulls them into your embracing love.
Forgive us, O Lord,
and do good to us when we have trouble doing good for others.
Surround us with your love;
surround us with your grace;
surround us with your peace;
surround us with the Spirit of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

✦ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: The mercy of our God triumphs over judgment through our glorious Lord Jesus Christ,
who has pleaded our cause, forgiven our sin, healed our sickness, and delivered us from evil.
(Please be seated.)

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

L: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
P: And also with you.

HYMN

“Gathered in God’s Name”
(music found at end of bulletin)

Michael Burkhardt

Proclaiming God’s Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pete Putnam

L: Let us pray . . .
Healing God, you do all things well.
Illumine our hearts by your Holy Spirit,
that we may receive your words and demonstrate your grace. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING:

James 2:1-9, 14-17

Pete Putnam
Pew Bible pg. 229-230

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ?
[2] For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty
clothes also comes in, [3] and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat
here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," [4] have you not made
distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

[5] Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? [6] But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? [7] Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? [8] You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." [9] But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. [14] What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? [15] If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, [16] and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? [17] So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

SCRIPTURE READING:

Mark 7:24-37

John Rawlings
Pew Bible pg. 42-43

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, [25] but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. [26] Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. [27] He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." [28] But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." [29] Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go--the demon has left your daughter." [30] So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

[31] Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. [32] They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. [33] He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. [34] Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." [35] And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. [36] Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. [37] They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

SERMON

John Rawlings

HYMN:

"Interlude No. 2"
Shawn Portell, piano

Paul Tate

Responding to God's Word

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: God, like the Israelites in the wilderness, we too have known Your love, and experienced Your care and provision. You invite us to extend that love to the world around us — to care for others as deeply as we care for ourselves. And so we bring the needs of our world before You now.

Lord, in Your mercy,

P: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for the many who do not have enough: enough food to eat, or shelter to keep warm; enough employment, or money to pay their bills; enough medicine or medical care.

Lord, in Your mercy,

P: hear our prayer.

L: We also pray for those who have more than enough, but who still struggle to find meaning and purpose in life; who indulge in dangerous or self-serving activities to dull their pain or loneliness. Lord, in Your mercy,

P: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for those who suffer because of pain, physically or emotionally. We pray for those who particularly need your healing touch or your gifts of patience and endurance. We lift up [fill in names]

(JOYS AND CONCERNS)

We also pray for those whose names we have not raised but still reside on our hearts.

L: God, Your grace reaches out to all of us. You call us to live as citizens of heaven, working together with one heart and mind. Strengthen us to live in a manner worthy of the Good News we have received, offering our lives in service of Your kingdom, where the last are first, and the first are last, and there is grace enough for all. Lord, in Your mercy,

P: hear our prayer.

L: In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

Pete Putnam

L: God has told us what is good; and what does the Lord require? To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God. Let us offer our gifts to God.

OFFERTORY:

“A Place at the Table”
Worship Band

PLACE AT THE TABLE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pete Putnam

L: Let us pray . . .

May we who are rich with your blessings, share them in common with those who have so little. May our gifts be used to sow justice, to feed the hungry, and to bring relief to those afflicted in so many ways. This we ask in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Friends, let us now be bold to pray as our Savior Christ has taught us:

**P: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Sending

CLOSING HYMN: #32

“Mighty to Save”
(see music in back of bulletin)

MIGHTY TO SAVE

CHARGE

L: As the grace of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord is bestowed unconditionally upon us, share your bread with the poor, advocate for the afflicted, show your faith in acts of kindness, love your neighbor as yourself.

INVITATION TO THE LIFE OF FAITH

POSTLUDE:

“Mighty to Save”
Worship Band

MIGHTY TO SAVE

As you rest in the postlude, our final offering to God, you are invited to use this time to reflect on how you have met God here today and how you will bring God's love into the world that awaits.

BLESSING

L: May the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ and communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all this day and every day until we worship together again.

Worship Notes

Those Who Serve Today

Ushers: Dan Egley, Mike Kearney, Denise Thomas
Liturgists: Pete Putnam
Camera Operators: Tom McNeely, Spencer
Roudebush, Dennis Wacker

Chancel Flowers

The Chancel Flowers are given to the Glory of God, the gift of Craig and Marilee Campbell.

Online Worship

In order to reach beyond the walls of WGPC and into the homes of those who are unable to worship with us in person, each of our worship services is live-streamed and video recorded for viewing on our website, wgpc.org, Facebook and YouTube pages. Children's participation in the Scripture Conversation indicates implied parental consent to be recorded.

Resources

Some prayers and liturgical texts for worship are provided by:

- Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1 © 2012
- Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2 © 2018
- Lectionary Liturgies
<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2018/08/liturgy-with-communion-for-september-9.html>
- re: Worship <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/search/label/Proper%2018%20B>


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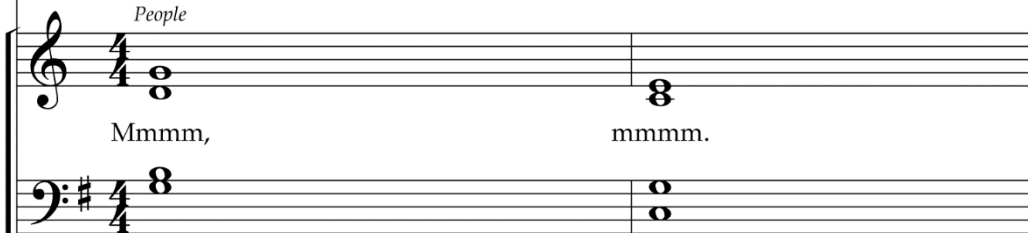
Open Your Mouth and Praise the Lord! 640

Leader




1 O - pen your mouth and praise the Lord!
 2 Clap your hands; O clap your hands!
 3 Dance to God; O dance to God!
 4 Praise the Lord; O praise the Lord!

People



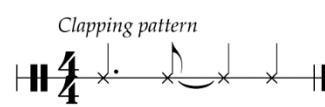
Mmmm, mmmm.

All



Praise the Lord: the Lord is good!
 Clap your hands: the Lord is good!
 Dance to God: the Lord is good!
 Praise the Lord: the Lord is good!

Clapping pattern



TEXT: Godwin Sadoh, 2005
 MUSIC: Yoruba folk melody; adapt. Godwin Sadoh, 2005; arr. Greg Scheer, 2008
 Text and Music © 2005 Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc.
 Music Arr. © 2008 Greg Scheer

OPEN YOUR MOUTH (Yoruba)
 Irregular

Gathered in God's Name

Refrain

with great joy!



Gath-ered from near and far, gath-ered in



this ho - ly place, gath-ered as strang-ers and



friends, gath-ered and gift - ed by grace.



Gath - ered in God's name 'round the liv - ing



Word. Gath - ered as one fam - 'ly



in the name of love, in the name of

slowing



love, in the name of love.

Text and Music: Michael Burkhardt, and copyright © 2021 Birnamwood Publications.

Mighty to Save

Verse 1

Everyone needs compassion
Love that's never failing
Let mercy fall on me
Everyone needs forgiveness
The kindness of a Savior
The hope of nations

Chorus

Savior He can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save
He is mighty to save
Forever Author of salvation
He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave

Verse 2

So take me as You find me
All my fears and failures
Fill my life again
I give my life to follow
Everything I believe in
Now I surrender

Bridge

Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King
Jesus
Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King

CCLI Song # 4591782

Ben Fielding | Reuben Morgan

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September 5, 2021 Announcements

Get Ready for Mission Weekend!

October 2 and 3



It's that time of year again . . . we are ready to serve those in our community by heading out for a weekend of work. There will be a variety of projects to sign up for, so pencil us in and look for project descriptions and signups in the Friday Flash and the bulletin next week.

Responding to the Crisis in Afghanistan

September 5 through 26

On Sundays in September, WGPC will be collecting items from International Institute's "most needed" list to share with a family relocating from



INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTE
SAINT LOUIS

Afghanistan. To participate in this collection, please visit <https://wgpc.org/get-involved/sign-up-links> to sign up for one or more of these items. Our collection area will

be on the stage in Fellowship Hall, underneath the wood carving at the south end of the room. If you would prefer to make a financial donation, you can write a check to WGPC or [give online](#) noting "Mission - IISTL Collection" in the memo field, and we will purchase additional needed items with these funds. For more information, IISTL has published a great list of resources at: <https://www.iistl.org/siv/>.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Helping Victims of Disaster

As we all are aware, people around the world have experienced a tremendous amount of suffering from natural disasters throughout 2021. Along with our prayers, many people want to contribute financially to help where they can. The PC(USA)'s mission agency includes Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), which reaches out during times of crisis to offer support and resources. Wildfires, flooding, hurricanes, and earthquakes are all impacting our world right now, and PDA can connect our contributions with those in need following these disasters. If you would like more information on how to donate, please visit <https://pda.pcusa.org/>.

Volunteer Nursery Worker Needed

Sunday mornings, 9:00 a.m. - noon

WGPC is in need of a volunteer to work in the nursery as we plan to open all programs on



September 12. If you love little children and would like to serve, please contact Carrie Rao at gopackers4@me.com.

WGPC Would Like to Hire A Part-Time Teacher's Aide

WGPC ECC is looking to hire a part-time teacher's aide for the Little Learners classroom (ages 1-3). Hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. – noon. No experience necessary but must love kids! Interested? Please reach out to Amanda at [917-312-7075](tel:917-312-7075) or ecc@wgpc.org. 🍎🍏

Community Composting

Are you looking for an easy way to get started with composting your kitchen food scraps? Table To Garden is an organization whose primary goal is to divert residential food scraps from landfills to

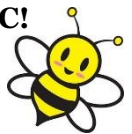


compost piles. Terri Ruitcel started Table to Garden to facilitate composting in St. Louis,

and she hosts a collection site at her home in Webster on Clark Avenue near Glen Road. She provides buckets with lids that people can pick up at her house, fill, return, and replace with another empty bucket to fill, all for free! If you're ready to get started, you can sign up using the link in the Friday Flash (<https://wgpc.org/get-involved/sign-up-links/>). Questions? Contact Terri at ttgtabletogarden@gmail.com.

Many Ways to Bee-Long at WGPC!

The opportunity fair may be behind us, but opportunities to meet new people, serve others, and share faith experiences abound at WGPC. A few reminders of service opportunities will be shown in each bulletin.



- Sunday Education Hour for adults, contact Rev. Susan Andrews at sra@wgpc.org
- Hospitality/Receptions & Ushers, contact Donna Bellows at dbellows@swb.net
- Flower deliveries, contact Kristy Anderson at 314-696-7383 or kristynanderson01@gmail.com.

**Month of Grace + Prayer:
An Ecumenical Retreat in Everyday Life
Begins Sunday, September 12**



Pray on your own 20 minutes each day and meet one-on-one with a spiritual companion one hour each week for four consecutive weeks. Starts September 12. All meetings will be virtual (Zoom or phone if you prefer). Weekly meeting times are set around your schedule. This is an

individually directed retreat tailored to your own deep desires. Committed couples also have the option to participate as a couple. The spiritual companions are not members of our church nor can they accompany anyone they know. All adults are welcome regardless of denomination or affiliation. More information about the retreat can be found at www.momentsofgraceandprayer.org. Register by contacting Clarence Heller at clarenceheller@gmail.com.

Masks in Worship

The CDC guidelines have been updated to reflect new data on the Delta variant of the coronavirus. Data suggests the variant is more potent and more contagious than the Alpha variant and now much more common. COVID cases are rising and the positivity rate has increased in our area. Children in our congregation 12 and under as well as some immunocompromised individuals are unable to be vaccinated. For the sake of these in our church family, we are at this time asking all vaccinated and unvaccinated worshipers to please wear a mask during worship and as you move around the church. We ask you to also remain "socially distanced." While the risk remains relatively low for vaccinated individuals, we believe making this sacrifice for others in our church is a faithful action to take to express our love for one another. Thank you for your kindness, understanding, and patience. Encourage those you know who are not vaccinated to be vaccinated so we can get back to normal! Thank you.

Pastor Ed



Classes start **next Sunday, September 12**, following worship. The nursery will be open until noon. For the full fall schedule, visit WGPC.org > Ministries > Faith Formation > Adult Ministries > Adult Education.

**Adult Classes, 10:45-11:45 a.m.
in the Church Parlor and on Zoom**

Adult classes will kick off with a three-part series entitled Do Black Lives Matter to White Christians? presented by Dr. Ruben Rosario-Rodriguez, Theology Professor at St. Louis University. Attend one or all three sessions!

- Sept. 12: What is Racism: A Biblical Perspective
- Sept. 19: Reformed Theological Resources for Resisting Racism
- Sept. 26: Black Life Matter to God

Additional classes will be announced on topics including: Coping with Pandemic Stress, Presbyterian Mission in Latin America, Gratitude in Tough Times, Advent Explorations, and More Light: Welcoming the LGBTQ+ Community, plus presentations from Environmental Stewardship and mission activities.

**Children's Classes, 10:40-11:45 a.m.
Drop-off and pick-up in Room 210**

Children pre-k through 5th grade will participate in a weekly rotation of classes to Praise (music and worship leadership), Explore (art, science, yoga and more), Grow (gardening and cooking) and Serve (mission projects). Each of the four-week segments focuses on the same Biblical story or theme.

Youth Classes, Sunday evenings

Celtics Middle School Fellowship will meet from 4:00-5:30 p.m. in the Youth Lounge. Agape High School Fellowship will meet from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Youth Lounge. All youth will come together for a family meal from 5:00-5:30 p.m.